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IDEALINA; AND OTHER POEMS.



I D E A L I N A ;

AND

Other Poems.

BY

HARRY QUILLEM.

Pseud., or

Edward John C. Kewell



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## DEDICATION.

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TO

HON. DELOS LAKE.

IN assuming the liberty of inscribing to you, Sir, the following pages, it is not that they possess any merit entitling them to so flattering and distinguished an endorsement, but simply as a slight testimonial of sincere friendship, on the part of one, who, however much may be his deficiencies in the style of meritorious composition, would desire to give some evidence of his appreciation of your kind heart, your cultivated mind, and exalted character. These pages are mostly the product of my Boyhood's fancy, and are replete with the evidences of immatured thought, and I have sought to preserve them, not with the vain hope of being able to rescue them from the merited oblivion to which they are ultimately destined; but if, from the partiality of friends, (for whose eyes alone they are intended,) they may at times beguile the

monotony of duty into the recreation of an hour, I will have realized the full fruition of my wishes. For the realization of this hope, I do not doubt, but that I shall be indebted more to the use of your name, than to any intrinsic excellence the compositions possess.

With the assurance of my friendly intention, and with the hope that the liberty thus taken will not displease you beyond the favorable prospect of reconciliation, and with an anxious desire for your prosperity and happiness, I subscribe myself respectfully,

Your obedient and

Humble servant,

THE AUTHOR.

# IDEALINA:

## A METRICAL PHANTASIE.

---

IN FOUR PARTS.

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### PART I.

#### I.

Our life is all a mystery  
Too subtle for the finite mind,  
And oftener 'tis the wish to free  
The thought from the strong chains that bind  
It to the dark study of earth—  
Its good and ill so strangely blended—  
Than take delight in giving birth  
To fancies that may ne'er be ended ;  
Or vainly seeking to discover  
The clue to that forbidden truth,  
That from the dawn of thought will hover  
In mist around the dreams of youth.

And oh, that mystic thing, the heart !  
 How frail its hopes, how strong its fears !  
 How much of joy it can impart,  
 How much of bitterness and tears !  
 It is the treasury of life  
 In which all thought, emotion, feeling  
 Are garnered up, and oft is rife  
 With hope and pleasure's sweet revealing ;  
 But oftner from the book of fate  
 It hoards each sorrow's hateful page,  
 'Till life and hope are desolate,  
 And nought endears earth's pilgrimage,  
 Unless a joy it is to be  
 The slave and curse of MEMORY !

The golden visions of our youth !  
 They come and mock us with their spell,—  
 They seem all loveliness and truth,  
 But oh, how soon the sad farewell  
 Is taken, and the heart repines  
 For pleasures that have pass'd away,  
 And hope mourns o'er its broken shrines  
 That fast are mould'ring in decay.

We hurry on to Manhood's goal  
 To grasp the baubles that are there ;  
 We flee to age,—and yet the soul  
 Turns back to Eden-joys that were,  
 When youth's sweet vision of life's morn  
 Was like a sunbeam on the heart,

And all the dreams, now faded, gone,  
Elysian raptures did impart.  
For feverish, restless are the years  
That make up life's maturer prime ;  
The wrestle and the strife bring tears  
For homage to ambition's shrine ;  
The tameless passions that are ours  
With flick'ring light lead far astray  
The reason, whose unguarded powers  
They lull to slumber—to betray.  
Oh then, when sated, wearied, palled  
With the feast of earthly bitterness,  
How often are the dreams recalled  
That came in early youth to bless,  
And shed o'er life a sunny beam  
As bright as passing meteor's gleam,  
And yet as transient in its light  
As is that streaming meteor's flight.

## II.

When life was young,—in boyhood's time,  
I clasp'd a vision to my heart,  
Far sweeter than a poet's rhyme,  
And dearer than the minstrel's art ;  
A dream of youth, and hope and love,  
Of spring-time with its golden hours,  
When all of earth, around, above,  
Seem'd bright as summer's garden flow'rs.

The heart was fresh and happy then  
 As loves that bask in beauty's rays ;  
 The blight of time had seared within  
 No hope that guiled life's better days,  
 Nor then affection's blight had made  
 A wreck of almost every joy,  
 Nor reckless passion had essay'd  
 Its guiltier powers to employ ;  
 But life flowed on, a quiet stream,  
 Whose every bubble was a dream  
 Of more than earthly happiness,  
 Or vision of entrancing bliss.

I loved ! It was no form of earth  
 That won my heart's first sunny dream,  
 It seem'd that nought of mortal birth  
 Could shed that bright and blissful beam  
 Which to the heart was kindly given  
 To make of earth a Poet's Heaven.  
 It was the coinage of the brain,  
 The empress of my fancy's realm,  
 To whom I bowed and lisped the strain  
 Of youthful love, that seemed to 'whelm  
 Me in its tide of glowing dreams  
 'Till life was nought but ecstasy,  
 And Heav'n appeared in sunny gleams  
 To hold in spell th' enraptured eye.  
 I gazed upon that visioned form  
 As thus it glowed in fancy's light,  
 And thoughts impassioned, pure and warm,

Sprang up in stern, resistless might,  
 Forcing the haunted heart to be  
 The prey to vain idolatry.

Oh, how I loved that image fair  
     As glassed upon my heart it lay!—  
 More lovely than the Naiads are,  
     Or Nymphs that wake the Poet's lay,—  
 There seemed to it a beauty given  
     More gorgeous e'en than tints of even.  
 I worshipped with a heart run wild  
     With deep excess of love, and then  
 When thus by passion's dreams beguiled,  
     And all was burning woe within,  
 I pined in grief that there was none  
     Could be that vision's counterpart,—  
 No form of earth to be the sun  
     Of dreams that throng th' adoring heart.

## III.

A bitter doom it is to love  
     And know thy love is all in vain;  
 To feel your own heart deeply move  
     And yet no kindred love may gain;  
 To live uncheered by other's smiles  
     When they alone the least can bless,  
 And know no kindly heart beguiles  
     Your own with loving tenderness.

And bitter 'tis to be alone,  
To sigh and weep, and vainly yearn  
For music of some gentle tone  
To which the heart can trusting turn,  
And drink its stream of earthly bliss,  
Scarce less than Heaven's happiness ;  
To feel a thirst we cannot still,  
A hunger that the soul annoys,—  
The restless hope—the feverish thrill—  
The wild and longing wish for joys  
That fortune dooms to be unsated—  
The anxious struggle, and the woe  
To every disappointment fated  
That e'er can reach the heart below,—  
Compared to this, e'en death would seem  
To be a sweet, refreshing sleep,  
Whose one unbroken sunny dream,  
Would leave the heart no more to weep.

Oh, I have felt the madd'ning spell—  
This chainless impulse to aspire ;  
Have felt the agony and hell  
That mocking wait on vain desire ;  
Have wished, till wish became a curse  
From which my thoughts I could not free,  
A dark and horrid phantom-nurse,  
To haunt the cells of memory.  
I longed for that ideal love  
That claimed the homage of my soul,  
The being whom I deemed would prove

The heart's best prize and blissful goal ;  
 And still I worshipped on, and still  
     The aching void was in my heart,  
 Which time, nor strength, nor hope could fill,  
     Or dream of pleasure once impart ;—  
 It is a bitter doom to be  
     The sport and child of misery !

## IV.

As years grew on, I felt my brow  
     With shade of cank'ring thought o'ercast,  
 The thought that lingered on the vow  
     And vision of the early past,  
 The secret longing I had nursed,  
     The struggle and the heart's aspirings,  
 And all the tumult that at first  
     Gave token of the soul's desirings.  
 My nature that was coined in love,  
     Still fed upon its passion-food,  
 Which sweet, though dimly understood,  
     Seemed types and tokens from above ;  
 For love is something not of earth,  
     A yearning for the good denied,  
 It owns a bright Elysian birth  
     And there by angels deified ;  
 It is the restless, vain desire  
     For what on earth may not be given,  
 Th' unbodied wishes that inspire

The fondest hopes and dreams of Heaven.  
For who can truly love, and feel  
    The heart's wild visions all possessed,  
Or deem that passion can reveal  
    No wish with deeper joy impressed ?  
'T were vain ! Love never grants the full  
    Of bliss or rapture it inspires,  
But leaves unsated still the soul  
    That's racked with fond and vain desires.  
These are alike our bliss and doom,  
    The sweeter life we sometimes feel,  
And then, the shadow and the tomb  
    Of hopes that lur'd us with their spell  
When earth was to our charmed eyes  
    The dream of early paradise.  
Enough ! I loved, and could not quell  
    The flame that glowed within my soul,  
Tho' oft I strove to break the spell  
    That o'er me had such strange control.  
And oft amid the war of life  
    Where fierce, contending passions ruled,  
The anxious struggle and the strife  
    In which the baffled thought is schooled,  
I've turned me from ambition's dream  
    And flatt'ring hopes of worldly power,  
To linger on that visioned beam  
    Of happiest light to Boyhood's hour.  
I've paused to worship o'er again  
    The earliest idol of the heart,  
And when from busy haunts of men

I've wander'd from all else apart,  
I've knelt at that dear, hallowed shrine  
Where thou dost reign—my soul's ideal—  
And heedless asked thee to be mine,  
As though of earth thou could'st be real !  
I knew 'twas folly, madness all,  
But slave to thy mysterious power,  
How vainly would I flee the thrall,  
Or make less consecrate the hour.

'Tis strange, that boyhood's sunny dream !  
'Tis strange, the heart's first vow was given  
To one who lived in fancy's gleam  
To type the beauteous forms of Heaven.  
But stranger still, that when long years  
Of hapless anguish and of love,  
Had left the soul all drowned in tears,  
And grief did my devotion prove,  
The reign of joy should come at last  
And transport fill the soul's glad streams—  
For *I have met*, what in the past  
Was but the angel of my *dreams* !  
That sweet embodiment of light  
I've gazed upon with earthly vision,  
And then did flee the spirit's night  
Which clouded hopes of birth Elysian,  
And leaped the heart exultingly  
At thought—ANGELICA—of thee !

## PART II.

## 1.

Can earthly form or shape compare  
With that which fancy bodies forth ?  
Can aught e'er be as wondrous fair  
As that being of ideal worth,  
Which lives and glows, and brightly beams  
The soul of our entrancing dreams ?  
The Naiad of the sunny stream,  
The Nymph of Grecian minstrel's dream,  
The Dryad of the grassy dell,  
And Peri of the pearly shell,  
Are creatures of poetic mind,  
And emblem all that's pure and fair ;  
But can their beauties all combined,  
Or fabled spirits of the air,  
In life a mortal being find  
Like them so lovely and refined ?  
Oh, brighter far than love's first dream  
The image that my soul has glassed,

Brighter than fancy's sunlit gleam  
 The vision to my heart is clasped ;  
 Ay, fairer is my earthly love  
 Than aught was e'er to fancy's seeming,  
 And lovelier than the thoughts that wove  
 The web of boyhood's early dreaming !  
 I saw and looked my soul's amaze,  
 That earth should boast an angel form,  
 And worship drank in every gaze,  
 Thus locked in spell of beauty's charm,  
 And felt that fortune then had given  
 The heart its sweetest glimpse of Heaven !

ANGELICA ! 'Twas joy to see  
 Thee, radiant as the sun of hope,  
 That with its magic beams awoke  
 The Memnon of Love's minstrelsy !  
 'Twas joy to feel that thou wert near,  
 And drink in rapture from the vision,  
 To own how sweet the Heaven here  
 To which the smile gave joy Elysian,  
 And be in heart and soul sincere,  
 Thy fondest, truest worshipper.

A strange, mysterious power there is  
 In e'en the accents of thy name,  
 A spell of dearer happiness  
 Than visions of serenest fame ;  
 For who can love, and yet not own,  
 As oft is heard the loved one's name,

A thrill as sweet as music tone  
 That o'er the heart in childhood came ?  
 The sound at once enchains the thought  
   As by a moonbeam's softened spell,  
 And with an influence 'tis fraught  
   Resistless as the ocean's swell,  
 In binding with a stronger chain  
 The heart that beats its bars in vain !  
 Oh, I adore each word that makes  
   Of thy loved name a treasured part,  
 And every syllable creates  
   An added bliss within the heart,  
 And when I've heard them all complete  
   And lisp'd e'en by a stranger tongue,  
 Love's fond emotions throng'd to greet  
 The sound so softly, strangely sweet,  
   Wheron the heart in transport hung.

To know this being is to love ;  
 'Twere vain to flee from love's control,  
 For every pulse would chime, and move  
   To homage the adoring soul.  
 Though shapes of angel beauty flowed  
   Upon the thought 'mid sunny dreams,  
 And though the faultless canvass glowed  
   'Neath fancy's brush of golden beams,  
 'Twere vain the picture there to see  
   Of her—my life's idolatry—  
 For fancy is a finite power,  
   A power that is not limitless,

While her's is nature's richest dower—  
Perfections infinite, to bless—  
And heaven created loveliness.

## II.

I ever worship at the shrine  
Of all that's beautiful and fair,  
And o'er the fond heart's sadden'd clime  
The joy-beam breaks and lingers there,  
To show how pure and deep may be  
For such, the soul's idolatry.  
The mountain summit bathed in clouds ;  
The cliff that braves the wintry storm,  
And in its rugged fastness shrouds  
The Genii of romantic charm ;  
The vale that blooms in vernal pride ;  
The landscape blending every hue,  
And fraught with fragrant charms beside  
T' attract the homage that is due ;  
The foliage of summer trees ;  
The unclosed bud, the spreading leaf ;  
The streamlet's varied harmonies ;  
The flower bursting from its sheath ;  
The fountain bubbling up in song ;  
The music of earth's welling springs ;  
The murmur'ring sounds that glide along  
O'er orange glades ; the bird that sings ;  
The stars that gem the vaulted sky—

Its rich adornment and its pride ;  
Its walls of vast immensity,  
And all Earth's glorious pomp beside,  
Have e'er for me a charm as sweet  
As loving tones affection hath,  
And as enduring and complete  
As woman's pure, unsullied faith.

I gaze upon the hallowed stars  
Whose loveliness enrapt the eye—  
The tumult of the spirit's wars  
Is calmed as by a lullaby ;  
The tide of eloquence they pour  
Of Music, Poetry and Love,  
Fall on the heart like silver shower  
Of moonbeams from their source above,  
And charmed streams in sweetness roll  
O'er secret haunts of raptured soul.  
I gaze upon the blushing flower  
That sparkles in the dew-drop's blaze  
In glow of morning's early hour,  
That brightens all things' neath its rays ;  
Then too, a silent pleasure steals  
In magic softness o'er the heart,  
Whose kindly influence e'er reveals  
The presence of refining art.  
I've seen the rainbow, as its form  
Was mirrored in the water-drop,  
Sparkle most beauteously and bright  
Beneath the sunbeams glowing light,

And harp-strains of emotions warm  
Within the heart were then awoke—  
It seemed that some mysterious breath  
Had touched its lyre's sweetest strings,  
And answered with its music wealth,  
Awaking all the soul's deep springs,  
And was much sweeter, far, than tones  
With which the zephyr's breath abounds,  
As 'long the hush of eve it comes  
To waken soft Æolian sounds.

But what's the livery of Heaven,  
Its clouds that look so silv'ry fair,  
The iris tints of summer even  
That blend in mystic beauty rare ;  
And what the myriad forms of earth  
That win upon the outward sense,  
To that deep charm that has its birth  
Within the shrine of innocence—  
That spell of loveliness that binds  
Us by a strength to earth uncommon,  
And in each beauteous object finds  
Reflected light from peerless woman.  
She is the centre of our dreams,  
The sun to which turns every thought,  
And makes all things with music fraught,  
Like Memnon's statue that of old  
When felt the rising sun of gold  
Sang out to its impinging beams.

## III.

The idol that I loved was not  
What I could deem of mortal birth ;  
So pure, without a stain or spot,  
She seemed of Heaven and not of Earth.

There are faces we sometimes meet  
So witching with expression sweet,  
That human power would essay  
In vain their beauties to portray—  
Would e'en the glittering canvass shame,  
That vaunted mockingly a claim  
To image them in truthful light  
Upon its sheen of purest white,  
E'en tho' with magic pencil drawn  
That paints the rosy tints of dawn,  
Or brush to fancy only known  
Dipp'd in sunbeams of breathless noon.  
They do not come upon the heart  
As with the thunder's sudden start,  
Nor like a torrent madly roll  
Into the channels of the soul ;  
But like affection's fondest dream,  
Their angel-loveliness doth seem  
To sink with softness in the heart,  
Becoming through all time a part  
Of visions that will ever be  
The haunting spells of memory.

We gaze, and feasts the eye the while  
On beauty's soft, endearing smile,  
And feel the answ'ring look enthrall  
The mind and heart and senses all  
As with a chain of charms as bright  
As visions of a summer night.  
The kindly offered hand we press  
And feel a thrill of happiness ;  
A stream of joy intensely glide  
Into the soul's impassioned tide,  
Whose every bound'ry overflows,  
And channels deepen where it goes.  
The angel type enchant's the eyes  
And on the heart its image lies,  
And as we gaze the bosom warms  
To clasp its luxury of charms.  
We *feel* the mystic presence near,  
We *own* it to the bosom dear,  
The Heaven in her look we see  
And orbs that kindle lovingly ;  
But oh, to image them that all  
May see what holds the heart in thrall,  
Or to another's eye portray  
The heart's enchanting light of day—  
How deep's the poverty of thought  
To soar on eagle pinions taught,  
And poor the minstrelsy of words  
Tho' flung from Music's sweetest chords.

As difficult 'twould be to limn  
The likeness of the smiling queen,  
As e'er with languaged skill essay  
My love's attractions to portray.  
The sun of eighteen summers shone  
Upon her beauty's peerless throne,  
And seasons rare they must have been  
Of joy, and rapture's sweetest dream,  
For on her brow no shadow came  
To dim the glory of its reign.  
Her features were as softly sweet  
As day-beam ever joyed to greet,  
Or any moulded by the clime  
Where love is lisp'd in minstrel's rhyme,  
Blending the hue of fairest rose  
With loveliest tint the lily knows,  
And fairer far than sweetest bloom  
That smiles beneath the summer noon,  
Or aught that e'er propitious grew  
'Neath gales perfumed with morning dew—  
Its fragrant incense born to rise  
In homage to its genial skies.  
Her eye was dark as noon of night,  
When moon and stars were out of sight,  
Whose lash but part concealed below  
A lid as white as driven snow,  
And from those orbs each wand'ring beam  
Brought memory of some sunny dream.  
O'er her fair brow the raven tress  
Hung down in braided loveliness,

The bloom of youth's Idalian rose  
Upon her cheek found sweet repose,  
And trembling blushes nestling there,  
Showed her sinless as angels are.  
The rich lip, ruddy, fresh and fair,  
And lapped in odors of the air,  
With tempting beauty, sweet and warm,  
Invited to its glowing charm,  
And in each dimple's fairy cell  
The monarch of the smile did dwell,  
And hallow its delicious reign  
By wreathing weird enchantment's chain.  
So small and delicate the waist,  
A zone of fairy might have clasped ;  
The hand was in concealment thrown  
Within the pressure of your own ;—  
She moves ! the air that breathless roves,  
Now sighs in homage as she moves !  
She smiles ! the pulses lightly bound  
As to the strains of Syrian sound !  
She speaks ! 'tis like the music sweet  
That comes in dreams the heart to greet—  
A melody of richer tone  
Than aught to music ever known,  
Or breathings of divinest love  
That can the soul with rapture move,  
And sweet as angel harmonies  
From blissful bowers of paradise.  
There's in her look and mien  
A majesty that's seldom seen,

And in her eyes a power doth lie  
To make e'en vice to virtue fly ;  
The rashly erring heart would win  
From path of folly and of sin,  
For wickedness could never live  
Within the light those planets give,  
Or mask its hideousness the while  
Within the radiance of her smile,  
But turn and rend itself in shame  
That e'er it bore a sullied name.  
All these, the *human* beauties were  
That claimed me an idolater,  
The clust'ring charms around her flung  
On which Hope's freshest garlands hung,  
And made the more enchanting real  
Than fancy's fondest, loved ideal !

But better far than angel face,  
Luxuriant form and winning grace,  
Than deep dark eye and conqu'ring smile,  
And lips reposing love the while,  
And dimpling blushes that betray  
Emotions in the heart at play,  
And all the beauties that invite  
The sense, and charm th' enraptured sight,  
Was that deep glow that brightly shone  
Where mind has its imperial throne,  
To which the heart owned sweet control  
As homage to the hallowing soul.

Her thoughts that were with love refined,  
Breathed tenderness to all mankind,  
And in the heart a fountain lay  
By kindness wrought to beaded spray,  
Which showed its silver tide to be  
The flow of purest sympathy.  
And though more lovely than the lymph  
Of glassy stream or fountain nymph,  
Yet mildly on her peerless brow  
The sunbeam fell with modest glow,  
And in her smile the want of art  
Portrayed the innocence of heart.  
Ay, modest as the fading beam  
The moon sheds o'er the laughing stream;  
And guileless as the sportive fay  
That revels in the starry ray,  
A soft enchantment 'round her threw  
Hope's blossoms moist with Eden dew,  
And spell of witchery too was given  
To charm the thoughts with love and Heaven.

Oh, in her presence one could feel  
That Eden did its sun reveal,  
And as you walked with her alone  
Beneath the radiance of the moon,  
And in the loved and quiet light  
Of stars that gem the azure night,  
There seemed a sweet, faint music near  
Of beams from every starry sphere,

Like whispers of Æolian strings  
When fanned by seraphs' golden wings,  
Amid the bowers that bloom above  
And singing of an angel's love !



## PART III.

## 1.

WHAT is that weird, controlless feeling  
 Which gives new impulse to the soul—  
 That hope of better life revealing,  
 The heart aspiring makes its goal ?  
 What power is that which wakes desires  
 That haunt the craving, restless spirit,  
 And vain as oft, yet still aspires  
 For that, ne'er fated to inherit ?  
 'Tis *love*—the ready heart responds—  
 But what is this controlling *love*,  
 Of which the dreaming thought abounds,  
 And makes each pulse to music move ?

In lore that reaches from the past,  
 The dreamy lore of years long gone,  
 'Tis taught that man by fate was cast  
 From glories of a brighter home ;

That in another state he shared  
 A bliss to lowly earth ne'er giv'n,  
 And all his present joys are marred .  
 By dreamings of a former Heav'n ,  
 That thought, hope, fancy feeling, all,  
 The powers that we now possess,  
 Are what but to the soul recall  
 The memories of an Eden bliss ;  
 And that each hoarded truth we learn,  
 Revives but some forgotten thought,  
 And all the good for which we yearn  
 Is from that bright existence caught.

Is it not so ? Do we not feel  
 That in this fond Athenian dream,  
 There are emotions which reveal  
 A sparkle of truth's glimm'ring beam ?  
 Can aught in life awaken e'er  
 Those longings vain and vague desires  
 That ever haunt us strangely here,  
 When love our ardent dreams inspires ?  
 The heart that owns to passion's sway,  
 And in the light of fancy lives,  
 Finds more of happiness in its ray  
 Than aught that worldly pleasure gives :  
 'Tis lighted up with brighter gleams  
 Than charm the lowly sphere of earth,  
 And filled with more enchanting dreams  
 Than such dull life has given birth.

Then who can say that love is not  
 The brightest mem'ry we retain  
 Of glories of that brighter lot  
 Which dimly it revives again ?  
 Though fond ambition may aspire  
 To reach the loftiest goal of mind,  
 And 'waken too the vague desire,  
 And longing that on earth we find,  
 'Tis but a *fainter* thought revived  
 Within the shade of passion's fane,  
 Where all that may be has survived  
 Of memory of our blissful reign.  
 The heart that loves, and truly loves,  
 Brings brighter visions to the sight,  
 And giving all things beauty, moves  
 The soul to homage and delight,  
 And owns within a newer birth  
 Of feelings that will not decay,  
 A something that is not of earth,  
 Nor perishable with its clay,  
 A pining for a brighter sphere  
 Of which it has the memory here,  
 The restless wish and wasting sigh  
 To still enjoy its *native* sky.

## II.

The fair ANGELICA, I loved  
 With that intensity of soul,



Which to all other passion proved  
The pure and fond heart's only goal.  
She was to me a mystic light  
Which wizzard fancy had created,  
To shine upon the deepened night.  
Of passion to the heart prefated ;  
And oh, I worshipped it as one  
Would e'er adore the moon-borne tide  
Of silvery beams that brighter shone  
As for the loved one by the side,  
When with its stream the words of love  
Mingled in one harmonious flow,  
And all the beaming worlds above  
Seemed listening to its music low ;  
Or as the lone heart's evening star  
That sheds its cheering light within,  
And hushing feelings that would mar  
The spirit's calm repose, or win  
The gloss from sweetest memories,  
Which are like sunbeams brightly cast  
Upon the stream of thought that lies  
In lustre of the visioned past.

I gazed, and o'er the heart, the rush  
Of thoughts like golden fancies came,  
And idol-memories would gush  
Within the soul, a summer stream  
That flowed with music in each wave,  
Like rivulet o'er sounding shells,

As sweet as visions that e'er gave  
 To youth and hope their garland-spells.  
 Fond love ! Thou art the young heart's dream,  
 Its solace in a world of care,  
 Its hope and bliss, its sunny gleam  
 That makes all things beauteous and fair !  
 Beneath its spell I've wandered forth  
 Amid the summer's laureled fields,  
 And found a more enchanting worth  
 In all the wealth that nature yields ;  
 The petals of the blooming flower  
 Did seem to wear a richer sheen ;  
 The landscape slept beneath a shower  
 Of beams that lit a brighter scene ;  
 The woods with all their foliaged wealth  
 Gave forth a thousand sunnier dyes ;  
 The air that roved as 'twere by stealth  
 Sighed out in sweetest harmonies ;  
 And beauty reigned on all around  
 Triumphant in its proud display,  
 And caused the lightened heart to bound  
 'Neath its and love's delicious sway.  
 The silver streamlet leaped along  
 As gleesome as a fairy's revel,  
 And birds poured forth their tide of song  
 That o'er the spirit's realm would travel,  
 And leave in each successive flow  
 A rapture and a memory  
 The heart of love can only know,  
 And feelings that can never die.

All these did minister to love,  
 Supplying it with angel-food,  
 The thoughts—dim-visioned from above—  
 And pinings for a heavenly good.  
 The heart o'ergushing with its tide  
 Of rich affection, spread o'er earth  
 An Eden splendor, and the pride  
 Of glories free from Autumn dearth,  
 And thus, 'twas happiness to live  
 Amid a paradise of bloom,  
 And feel all things in bounty give  
 A refuge from the waste of gloom.

And well it is for life's young heart  
 That love is not forbidden there,  
 For sweetest joys it can impart  
 Amid a world of gloom and care.  
 And well, that fond affection's stream  
 Its fleshly bounds should overflow,  
 And give the magic of a dream  
 To life amid its waste of woe.  
 For love within the heart confined  
 Will stagnate in its fettered sphere,  
 Like streams which circling mountains bind,  
 Though full, all motionless appear ;  
 But when it finds a kindred heart,  
 And breaks the bounds that pent its flow,  
 It bears rich treasures that impart  
 A joy 'tis happiness to know.  
 Oh thus, did seek my soul's deep tide

The channel of my idol's thought,  
 And gushing in its wealth of pride  
     Bore music to the shrine it sought.  
 On her, the radiant earthly type  
     Of early fancy's fond revealings,  
 I threw my hope with passion ripe,  
     And all affection's noblest feelings—  
 And recked not of the world's vain glow  
 In dreamings of a Heaven below.

## III.

I woo'd the loved ! the beautiful!  
     I gazed upon her peerless brow  
 With heart of love and hope, as full  
     As is the soul of mem'ries now.  
 I looked into her deep dark eyes  
     That shed within the heart a light  
 Like twilight star's o'er paradise,  
     When all with golden glow is bright,  
 And poured the hoarded treasures forth  
     That love had garnered in its store—  
 The sum of rich affection's worth  
     That longed with miser wish for more—  
 The thoughts that wildly, sweetly gush  
     From pent up fountains of the heart,  
 Like sunny streamlets as they rush  
     From hidden springs with sudden start—

The solemn feelings that belong  
 To the fond soul that passion moves,  
 And all the dreams that ever throng  
 Upon the heart of one who loves—  
 Like softened sounds of twilight wave,  
 Or dewy foliage whispering low,  
 Her voice came o'er the heart and gave  
 A thrill of happ'ness to its flow,  
 And smiles passed o'er the sunlit soul  
 Like zephyrs soft o'er blooming flowers,  
 For passion now had won its goal,  
 And linked in one the hearts of ours.

*We loved!* Oh, all that Poets feign  
 To know of Heav'n was in my heart,  
 And then did Music's spirit reign  
 Exulting in its blissful art.  
 There is no rapture known to earth,  
 No ecstacy that life can coin,  
 No happiness that has its birth  
 In which the human heart may join,  
 Like that the ardent lover feels  
 When first he learns the magic truth,  
 That love of kindred heart reveals  
 The wish attained that haunted youth.  
 To worship with the heart's devotion  
 An idol Passion has created,  
 To lavish all the deep emotion  
 With which the soul may ne'er be sated—

To bow before the hallowed shrine  
Of one who did an angel seem,  
Too pure and fair to link with time  
The blissful hope of wedlock's dream,  
And know thy yearning's not in vain—  
Brings paradise within the soul,  
And throws o'er passion's earthly stain  
The light its garden blooms control.

We loved ! and love became the food  
Of every thought, the only dream  
That fraught link'd life with seeming good,  
Or gave to earth a pleasure-gleam—  
And all the yearnings that I knew—  
The moanings of a severed heart—  
Were hushed as it became anew  
Of its original a part.  
And then all artless grew our love  
Our eyes beamed confidence on each ;  
And hearts in bliss together wove  
Held converse free from passion's reach,  
And knew nor jealousy, nor fear,  
But felt the peace of faithful hearts,  
And high-born feelings that appear  
Like music of seraphic harps.  
The earth and air, and sea and sky,  
And all the worlds that beamed above,  
Seemed rich with sweetest melody,  
And typed the holiness of love ;

And from them all were gathered words  
    And im'ges of affection's truth,  
And thoughts, that came like summer birds,  
    From mem'ry-haunted realms of youth.  
And even now, 'thoug time has flown  
    Like meteor 'long the track of night,  
And feelings have more earthly grown,  
    Since all is wrecked that gave delight,  
And 'mid the world I've vainly sought  
    A solace for my spirit's tears,  
And gone the hues my fancy caught  
    With which to paint the future years—  
Yet Mem'ry disentombs the past,  
    And from the sepulchre of dreams  
And fancies that o'er life were cast  
    'Mid lustre of Hope's sunny gleams,  
A low, faint voice comes stealing o'er  
    The heart, like melodies of youth,  
When earth and sun and planets wore  
    The Heavenly sheen of love and truth.

## IV.

We often met! but not amid  
    The gaze of such as could not know  
How holy the affection hid  
    Within the heart's warm current flow!  
We could not brook that other eyes  
    Should pry into the soul's recess,

And penetrate the treasured guise  
That masked each ardent, loving breast,  
For love is timid, and would not  
Be subject for the idler's jeer,  
Or have thus marred the peaceful lot  
That Hope did to itself endear,  
But shrinks with modest awe from rude  
Surmises, yet more rudely given,  
And seeks its own sweet solitude,  
And blisses of its lonely heaven.  
We met and drew inspiring breath  
From every breeze that floated by,  
And drank the summer's hoarded wealth  
Of sweets from flowers blooming nigh.  
And deep within the soul of each,  
Fond thoughts like stillest waters lay,  
And from the eye was all the speech  
That oft affection would essay ;  
For in the heart of love, the wave  
Doth sometimes make its silent flow,  
And 'though its tide is oft the grave  
In which the art of words lies low,  
Yet thought doth take its quiet way  
Reflected in the placid stream,  
And all the hush'd emotions lay  
In lustre of affection's beam.  
We've strolled beside the silver lake  
When crimson skies have fled away,  
And evening zephyr's softly wake  
The blooms that 'neath the moonlight lay,

And standing far above its wave,  
With warm emotions in the soul,  
Have gazed as on a glass that gave  
The likeness of the worlds that roll  
In beauty and in pride above,  
While we, midway, did seem to stand  
In sphere, like magic fairy land,  
That fancy formed alone for love.  
And there we've listened to the song  
Of flowers, and night bird's roundelay,  
And star-borne tide of beams that throng  
The heart, and to its music sway  
Would yield our spirits, as to sounds  
That floated far from Eden bowers,  
Each note of which with bliss abounds  
To halcyon the fleeting hours.  
Those peerless hours ! What joy they brought !  
They came and passed so softly by,  
That not a foot-print on the thought  
Betrayed the sign that they were nigh !  
The Hours are Deities that time  
Has given to the quiet spirit,  
When life not yet has soiled the shrine  
Of joys, that youth and hope inherit ;  
And oh, when all is calm within,  
And sleeps the heart in love's repose,  
We feel their sound of music win  
A thrilling rapture as it flows,  
And thoughts come forth from spirit-bowers,  
In homage to their idol Hours !

## v.

Thus time passed on, but could not dim  
The fervor of that flame which glowed  
In mutual bosoms, and the hymn  
Of voiced affection sweetly flowed  
Upon the hush of twilight hour,  
Like soft airs borne on music wings,  
To breathe upon the slumb'ring flower,  
And waken love's imaginings.  
For love had giv'n me higher aims,  
A thirsting breast and vast desire,  
A spirit mounting up in dreams  
Which bade the slumb'ring soul aspire.  
I felt a more ennobled heart,  
An impulse that exalts, refines,  
High thoughts and instincts that impart  
Sweet incense to affection's shrines.  
Within the heart a thousand feelings  
Came welling from the fount of love,  
And visions, that did seem revealings,  
Though dim and vague, were from above ;  
And earth did take the sunny hue  
Of glory, and ambition's dream,  
And fame its lavish sun-light threw  
O'er hopes were nursed in fairy realm.  
I gazed upon some distant goal,  
From which the heart, unloving, shrinks,

But loving, rouses all the soul  
That from the spring of passion drinks,  
And then did seek in pride to win  
A name that on the world might shine  
With light of goodness—free from sin—  
Fit offering for my idol's shrine !

As fast as time sped on, our love  
Became yet brighter and more strong,  
And all of nature seem'd to move  
In concert with affection's song.  
Our hearts were as two gentle streams  
That mingled all their wealth in one—  
Our soul's were filled with kindred dreams  
Awaked from life's one chord alone ;  
Our fancies formed a paradise  
O'er which the purest love held sway,  
And Hope amid its dews would rise  
To welcome each approaching day,  
And through the night bring visions sweet  
Of birds and flowers, and songs of love,  
And beauty such as angels meet  
In bow'rs of Amaranth above.  
Thus, life to us was golden bright,  
With music in each breath of air,  
And from the future peered a light  
To show the Heav'n love pictured there !

## PART IV.

## I.

TIME waned ! Oh, what a world of thought  
Lies in the circle of those words !  
How much of bliss or woe is brought  
To strike upon the spirit's chords,  
And make them give forth music tones  
Of joy and hope and happiness,  
Or answer to the thrilling moans  
Awakened by the heart's distress.  
The stream of time flows on, and though  
No ripple crisps its peaceful wave,  
Its surface all unmoved will show  
The wreck of hopes it early gave—  
Of joys that once did gaily float  
Upon its bosom's swelling pride,  
And feelings that affection wrought,  
Now borne on its oblivious tide.

Time waned ! A few short months had flown,  
That glided by on rapture's wing,  
When all to earth of heaven was known—  
The happiness that time could bring—  
Perish'd like blooms 'neath autumn airs,  
And all to manhood's eye was gloom,  
And life grew up with thronging cares  
That marred the beauty of its bloom,  
For o'er the heart a Saniel came,  
That withered all that blossom'd there,  
And left it nothing but the name—  
The waste, the desert of despair !

The transient bubble of the wave  
I've seen in magic beauty rise,  
And then its mirroring surface gave  
The imag'ry of the morning skies ;  
It seemed a world of life and light,  
Illumined by a mimic sun,  
Its floating clouds looked silv'ry white,  
And fair it was to gaze upon,  
But soon a breath dissolved the spell,  
And all its mimic beauty fled,  
The tiny sun in darkness fell—  
A world of magic splendor dead !  
And thus it is with time which brings  
Fond dreams to lure the trusting soul,  
A world of bright imaginings  
Which make the pure heart's highest goal,

Then bubble-like, a wave of air  
 Dissolves the blissful period's charm,  
 And life with hope no longer warm,  
 Awakes the frenzy of despair.

It *may* be there are those who live  
 Within the sphere of fancied bliss,  
 Whose very sorrows to them give  
 The joy and happiness of this ;  
 But such *there are* who feel desire,  
 A deep, a yearning curse within,  
 Whose every thought glows with a fire  
 Some high and fancied goal to win;  
 Who live indeed in fancy's realm  
 And clasp in every cloud a vision,  
 Whose life is but one constant dream,  
 And pinings for a bliss Elysian.  
 They yield to some unbodied thought  
 The worship of life's holiest time,  
 And every feeling, wish, is fraught  
 With homage to some ideal shrine,  
 For whose divinity they yearn,  
 And waste their life in vain desirings,  
 For seldom earthly shapes may turn  
 To what called forth the soul's aspirings.  
 But if the bodied form is found,  
 Which lived in fancy's glowing light—  
 If earth should chance within its bound  
 To hold the spell that breaks the night

Of pinings vague for bliss below,  
 And such a spirit learns to love,  
 To feel deep passion's burning glow  
 For one of earth, but born above—  
 And then the love of each be plighted—  
 What rapturous bliss is there !  
 But if affection's hope be blighted,  
 What guage can measure its despair ?

## II.

I saw and loved the idol sun  
 O'er fancy's growing realm that shone,  
 I bowed before the worshipped one,  
 Was loved, and was by fate undone !  
 Oh, there are times when the warm heart  
 Doth love to travel back, and live  
 Amid the dreams that form a part  
 Of joys its Eden memories give ;  
 It lingers on the tide of years  
 That bore rich freight unto the soul,  
 Ere life had changed its smiles to tears,  
 Or Hope had reached affliction's goal.

ANGELICA ! I miss thee now !  
 I stroll beside the glassy stream,  
 Where zephyrs fan my aching brow,  
 And all of happy life doth seem  
 The faded image of a dream. .

I cast around my longing eyes,  
And what now meets the anxious view,  
Brings mem'ry of the paradise  
O'er which I roved with love and you.  
I see the sinking sun, and wave  
That flows in murmur'ring sweetness by,  
I feel its balmy breeze that gave  
Sweet melody when thou wert nigh ;  
I hear the whisp'ring stir of leaves,  
The rills that from their fountains gush,  
And song-birds trill 'mid woodbine wreaths,  
The lays that waken twilight's hush—  
The sounds oft heard when thou wert near,  
And joys sprang up like summer flowers—  
They're now upon my cheerless ear,  
Remembrancers of happier hours !  
I feel once more thy arm in mine,  
In all the confidence of love ;  
Thy eyes in gentleness doth shine  
Like chasten'd moonlight from above,  
And as my spirit drinks the gaze,  
The heart throbs wildly with delight—  
The rapture of love's halcyon days,  
Throws sunshine o'er the soul's deep night.  
Thy winning voice in accents low,  
Comes floating back on mem'ry's stream ;  
The deep, warm thoughts will come and go,  
That guiled me 'mid love's blissful dream,  
But when I turned to *speak* to thee—  
The fond, the vain illusion's gone,

Is gone the spell of memory,  
And with despair I'm left alone.

The silvery morn of summer breaks,  
And birds are singing in the grove,  
Sweet warblers that the dawn awakes  
To hymn the minstrelsy of love.  
The sportive swallow from his height  
Twitters his merry roundelay,  
And plunging, in a circling flight  
Now headlong makes his downward way,  
And then in merry mood will rise  
And seek by fickle turns his spire,  
And warble o'er the melodies  
That trill on morning's mystic lyre.  
And there are hearts that gleeful spring  
To meet the mantling morn, and bask  
In dewy light of gladness wing—  
Unused to wear the world's cold mask—  
But there is one to whom the morn,  
Nor hope nor fond rejoicing brings,  
And Heaven seems to smile in scorn  
Upon the soul's exhausted springs.  
*One* heart, that sees no joy on earth,  
And feels the skies look darkly down,  
To make more sad the spirit's dearth,  
And leave it bleeding and forlorn.  
The very air that fans the cheek  
And gives the fevered brow relief,

In that, a bitterness doth speak,  
And seem a mockery of grief;  
For oh, I've borne the cureless stain  
Of woe, that e'er the heart could bear,  
And all the soul doth writhe in pain  
Of cureless anguish and despair.

I miss thee, my betrothed ! my own !  
Thou'st ceased to linger by my side  
At evening's hush and night's deep noon,  
Who once was wont to be my guide !  
I hear thy voice-harp swell no more  
The music of the zephyr's breath,  
And fled the witching smile you wore,  
When love was lavish of its wealth.  
But thou hast not been false, my love !  
No treach'rous vow thy lips have passed—  
No dark deceit could ever move  
Thy heart in Eden mouldings cast !  
But thou art where this broken heart  
In death's lone quietude should rest,  
For thy sweet words and gentle art,  
Sleep now on Heaven's unchanging breast.

## III.

The fair ANGELICA !—she died !  
She that was loved and beautiful,

That was my soul, my life, my pride—  
The charm my bosom's rage could lull !  
She died like music o'er the flowers  
That blushing greet the early spring,  
Or meteor 'mid the morning hours  
When stars are brightly glimmering !  
Oh, she that was so fair and bright,  
Did feel the trace of parting life  
On her fair cheek and brow of light—  
Alone with sweetest sunshine rife—  
And winds did breathe in hollow sighs  
Their mournful tale of grief and woe,  
As 'round her feverish couch, the cries  
Of breaking hearts, uncheck'd did flow—  
The requiem of my love and hope—  
The knell of bliss and raptures fled—  
The story of life's bubble broke,  
And all youth's summer visions sped.  
And then, dark shadows thickly stole  
Upon the sun-beam of my fate,  
And left the Eden of the soul,  
All blighted—withered—desolate.  
Dark thoughts, a wild, disordered brood,  
Like harpy fiends would throng the heart,  
And make its cherished memories food  
To sate their vile, vindictive art.  
'Twas death and agony and hell,  
The torment that my bosom knew,  
When love wailed thus its wild farewell,  
And Hope expired in anguish too.

I never thought amid life's bloom  
 When Heav'n was floating in the air,  
 That e'er the shadow of the tomb  
 Would fall on hope and wake despair.  
 I did not dream as oft I sipped  
 At rapture's fount of blissful tears,  
 That joy's sweet blossoms would be nipped  
 Around its banks by frost of years ;  
 Or pleasure mount on sorrow's wings,  
 And from its peaceful home depart,  
 And with it the imaginings  
 That blessed the deeply loving heart.  
 I ne'er did think that air and earth  
 Would lose their beauty's witching spell,  
 And blooming flowers of summer birth  
 Increase my bosom's burning hell,  
 And all that formed my early bliss  
 Should only bring a spell of woe,  
 And every gleam of happiness  
 But hurry grief's unchanging flow.  
 But fate hath hurl'd its poisoned spear,  
 The hurt and rankling spirit falls,  
 Now, reckless of what once was dear,  
 And memory like a curse appals.  
 The shade of darkness now is thrown  
 Upon my sad and cheerless way,  
 And grief hath marked me for its own,  
 Unblest by one kind, sunny ray,  
 And all my soul's deep worship's cast,  
 A wreck upon a boundless sea—

The pure affections of the past  
Are icicles of memory !

Oh, why when broke life's tender chord  
And flew thy spirit unto Heaven,  
Did not the bosom that adored  
Thee, feel to it love's respite given ?  
Why ceased not then, the throbbing veins  
That swelled the filling heart with woe,  
And why is left to me the pains  
Alone of anguish'd love below ?  
Were we, ANGELICA, not *one* !  
In heart and trusting love the same !  
Then why, oh why should'st thou be gone,  
And I—a blighted thing—remain ?  
Our hearts were linked, our souls were wed,  
Our thoughts and feelings all united,  
Entwined as by a mystic thread,  
And every fond affection plighted.  
My dreams in thine were born anew,  
Thy nerves did vibrate to my own,  
Our eyes unto each other grew,  
And lips with kindred warmth did burn.  
Thou wert my Life's best, purest part,  
The soul's divinity within,  
The angel of my trusting heart  
To guard me from the world's dark sin.  
But now, the eye that shone with love  
And kindled high its mutual flame,

Is lustreless, and may not rove  
As in our happier days the same.  
Thy lips whose gentle words did start  
Within the soul a blissful light,  
Are cold and wan, and can impart  
No ray to cheer the heart's deep night,  
And all that love could e'er adore  
Now sleeps, to wake on earth—no more.

Thou wert on life's dark pilgrimage  
To be my staff, and hope, and guide,  
The joy and comfort of my age,  
As of my youth the bosom's pride.  
And when the world looked darkly on  
The travail of th' aspiring soul,  
When fortune gazed but with a frown  
And fate denied the heart its goal,  
Thou wast to be my hope's reward,  
The world whose smiles would not forsake,  
The bosom's best and lonely hoard  
Of wealth misfortune could not take.  
And I, whatever fate befel,  
Would shield thee from its deadly aim ;  
My breast alone, should ward the spell  
Of wrath that o'er life's sunshine came.  
And thus secure in mutual love  
O'er which beams e'er a summer sky  
Each heart 'mid fairy bowers would rove,  
And chilling airs of earth defy,

But cease, oh memory ! cease to bring  
 Life's vision of the past to view—  
 The fickle, transitory thing  
 That blessed the heart but to undo !  
 'Tis vain ! while lingering on the brink  
 Of time, my "*curse* shall be to *think*."

## IV.

And I will love thee, shrined one, still !  
 Tho' oft the voice of pleasure lures,  
 And joy and music earth's bow'rs fill,  
 No spell like these the spirit cures,  
 But all such cheerful sounds doth seem  
 A banquet in the midst of death,  
 Or painful memory of a dream  
 That fled before the simoom's breath.  
 Aye ! I will love thee, tho' the thought  
 " Doth work like madness in the brain,"  
 Though tears that to the soul are brought,  
 Fall o'er its waste, a purple rain,  
 Though every memory is a pang,  
 And thoughts are serpents in the heart,  
 That pierce the core with sheathless fang  
 'Till poison fills up every part !  
 For what is *life* but *love* for *thee* ?  
 Take *love* away and *life* is not !  
 Then cease—oh ! cease—my memory,  
 That I may share *her* peaceful lot !

Dark world ! thou hast no spell to win  
Me from the woes of blighted love,  
Thy countless shadowings of sin,  
But teach the heart to look above !  
Ambition's dream has now no charm  
To solace suffering like mine ;  
I cannot bow with feelings warm  
At Fame's or Glory's hallowed shrine ;  
I care not for earth's laurels now,  
Its vain distinctions and its pride ;  
They cannot glow upon the brow  
Of her—my heart-shrined—ANGEL-BRIDE !

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## I.

To thee, my love's last lay, I sing,  
Sweet angel of the sky !  
And then will break the harp's lone string  
And its sad echoes die !  
It woke when fancy's faith was strong,  
And then its finest chords were strung  
To love's sweet melody,  
But soon the blight of autumn years  
Awoke the heart and it to tears !

## II.

I've loved thee long ! The angel thou  
Of passion's earliest dream,  
And then the sun-beam lit my brow  
As with Hope's fairy gleam,  
For I had found thee on the earth  
A stranger fair of heavenly birth,  
As thou to me didst seem,  
And then I made thy heart my shrine,  
And worshipped thee as though divine !

## III.

I love thee now ! And though I've wept  
Life's warm and bitter tears,  
And woes, like adders coiled, have crept  
Around youth's better years,  
Since thou hast taken back thy flight  
To that far sphere of Eden light  
Thy birth to thee endears—  
Still—still thy image is a part  
Of my forlorn and bleeding heart.

## IV.

Perchance 'tis well that thou art freed  
From chains that bound thee here !  
I would not see thy bosom bleed,  
Or have thee shed a tear ;  
And oh, if thou didst linger long  
A part of Earth's deceitful throng,  
The dark contact might sear  
The pure fresh thoughts that glow within,  
Ere ART doth teach the soul to sin.

## V.

I would not meet thee when the thrall  
Of earth had bound thee fast,—  
The world's dark follies would appal  
The memories of the past !  
I would not ever have thee feel  
What hollow Fashion would reveal,  
Or o'er thy heart have cast  
One doubt of that dear friendship's truth  
Which gave the hallowing charm to youth.

## VI.

But woe is mine, and I must weep  
    Its bitter, burning tears—  
Nor heart, nor memory will sleep  
    Through life's long, ling'ring years ;  
But thoughts of thee will haunt the shrine  
    O'er which Hope's early sun did shine,  
    Undimmed by time's dark fears,  
And then I feel the curse and blight  
    Of hopeless love's unchanging night.

## VII.

And now, loved one ! a last adieu !  
    My fitful strain is o'er ;  
The lyre that hymned thee fond and true,  
    Will wake its chords no more ;  
But oh, its shattered wreck will prove  
    The emblem of a blighted love !  
    Thy memory I'll adore—  
But now, I feel woe's madd'ning spell,  
    And bid—with breaking heart—farewell !!!

# THE LOVER'S SIGH.

A LEGEND OF THE BILOXIS.

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## I.

A sound of mirth is on the air,  
A joyous sound of revelry ;  
And brightly gleam the torches' glare  
Where dusky forms are revelling nigh.  
And they have come from far and near  
To mingle in the present cheer,  
Where o'er them now is softly thrown  
A radiance from the Joy-God's throne,  
And brightly beams on every brow  
The mellow tint of Pleasure's glow.

Is aught within this scene of mirth  
The base alloy of lowly earth !

Is this bright hour of gladness blent  
With aught of passion's dark intent ?

'Tis not to boast of many scars  
Received in recent bloody wars,  
Or from the past their prowess prove,  
By scalps, around each girdle wove,  
That were in hour of battle dread  
Torn from many a warrior head :  
'Tis not to kindle 'new the ire  
That once had glowed with madd'ning fire,  
Or conjuré up some demon spell—  
Too dark for minstrel lore to tell—  
To lure within their dread embrace  
The Chieftain of some hated Race ;  
Nor e'en to light the torrid blaze,  
And on its wreath-wrought pinions gaze,  
As when it circles high in air  
The stake-bound victim of despair,  
That now those noble forms have met,  
On whom the seal of joy is set.  
Beneath the dusky veil of night,—  
Within the blazing torches' light,  
The Chieftain of a warrior race  
Has brought the fairest of his Tribe,—  
And now upon her blushing face  
He prints the seal—**A CHIEFTAIN'S BRIDE.**

## II.

And they are too a bright array  
Of youthful charms concentrated there,  
And eyes than dimmer earth more fair  
Shoot forth many a sparkling ray.  
But She, the fairest of them all,  
For whom the youthful maidens vie  
“To sing her praise and wait her call”—  
Will peace *her* bosom ever fly ?  
Alas ! a fearful shadow steals  
Already o'er a heart that feels  
The cup of Life is drained of all  
That could its joyous dreams enthrall.  
Yet on the brow no shadow came—  
Indeed, 'twere worse than endless shame,  
By action, thought, or word to show  
That there was aught but pleasure's glow,  
Could flush her cheek of olive then—  
And sorrow sheathed its shaft within.  
Deep, deep within her bosom shrined,  
Were feelings of no heav'nly kind ;  
For tho' with hers was linked a name  
That shed fame's brightness o'er her fate—  
Reigned fondly still love's passion-flame  
For one whose heart was desolate.

She loved a youthful form and face,  
In which her trusting thoughts could trace

A heart that throbbed in unison  
With all the feelings of her own.  
And oft this Indian youth had wooed  
The maiden in her solitude,  
And in those secret haunts, had learned  
The depth of that strange love which burned  
In still unfading brightness 'round  
The hopes that were with cypress crowned.

Now swift the maiden's fancy flew  
O'er realms fresh bathed in morning dew,  
When Hope had seen its earliest light  
And heav'nward plumed its eager flight ;  
And in that fairy land is seen  
The freshness of Life's morning dream,  
And 'neath its soft and mellow skies  
A thousand struggling memories rise,  
Which force the heart to live and feel  
Despite the fear of coming ill.  
But now, again, the vision's passed  
That for a moment o'er was cast  
The darkness of her mental sky,  
And Hope is left to droop and die.  
The warrior-youth who claimed her love  
Was one of a forbidden Tribe ;  
And she—his fond and gentle Dove—  
A stern Biloxi Chieftain's Bride !

## III.

The cheering sounds of mirth have died  
Away upon the zephyr's wing,  
And quiet reigns in primal pride  
Where late was joyous revelling.  
A pall of darkness hovering nigh  
Is seen upon the midnight sky ;  
But there is one of youthful form  
With daring high and pulses warm,  
Who lingers still in ambush, near  
Th' abandoned scene of festive cheer,  
As if, within his bosom deep,  
A feeling strange that will not sleep,  
Impelled him to some rash emprise  
Beneath those darkly low'ring skies—  
Whose fearful shadows now are blent  
With darkness of the deep intent—  
And o'er him comes the cherished thought  
Of vengeance that his bosom sought.

Go tempt the monarch lion in his lair  
When hungry passion wakes the startled air,  
And with a fury's crying—madd'ning sound  
The woods and hollow caves re-echo 'round—  
When from his burning eye-balls fiercely dash  
The streaming terrors of the lightning's flash,  
Or quickly flames within each angry eye  
The fearful glance of woful destiny ;

Go to the royal Tigress' secret den  
Where yet the hunter's guilty trace is seen,  
And first, the mother feels her bosom pierced  
With fortune's demon shaft—with grief accurst,  
And in her boiling-heart, a wretched fire  
Glowing with deadly, deep, revengeful ire,  
She starts aloud the fearful, shrieking cry  
Of worse—far worse than mortal agony,  
And then is prest, is fondly, madly prest  
Her lifeless young ones to her bleeding breast ;—  
Aye go, and still with safety you may dare  
The more than madness of her grief's despair,  
Destroy the angry tigress in her cave  
Where gladly seeks she then, a welcome grave ;  
Or e'en may challenge too the forest king  
Whose tones in fierce and wrathful echo's ring,  
And from the dread rencontre proudly rise  
With triumph gleaming from your sparkling eyes.  
But nought may hope to 'scape the dreadful ire,  
That's waked by youthful Passion's warm desire,  
Or quench the maddening thoughts that anxious burn  
In fitful gleams around Hope's early urn,  
And vainly would the helpless victim hope  
The deadly vengeance-spell around him broke,  
Which dwells within the joyless soul's recess  
Nor pitying calms its deep and wild distress.

For oh, when shadows cloud the heart,  
And from its fairy realms depart

The empress Pleasure from her throne,  
And hush'd the spell of Music's tone  
Which thrilled through every chord  
'Till Passion's demon throng adored ;  
When all that erst was bright and fair  
On earth or sea, in sky or air—

As if some fiend of darkness came  
O'er fancy's beauteous realm to reign,  
And spreading wide each sable wing  
Gives Hope its darkened coloring—  
No more may gild th' enraptured view  
Or bloom with Hope's enchanting hue ;  
When Love hath sheathed with practised art  
Its pois'rous arrows in the heart,  
And then is felt the bitter curse  
Of Passion—horrid phantom-nurse—  
The blight of Eden's dearest flowers  
That garlanded life's morning hours,  
And in the soul a quenchless flame  
That sears the heart and rends the brain—  
Oh then will come the desperate thought  
To flaming glow of frenzy wrought,  
That would with reckless fury dare  
The darkest bidding of despair.

And now within that youthful Indian's breast  
When all, save him, have sought their couches' rest,  
There lurks a deadly and prophetic hate  
That spurns the fell decree of recent fate

And fiercely in its growing madness glows  
To wreak full vengeance on exulting foes.  
And when shall blushing break the new-born day  
And shine again on earth dawn's earliest ray  
A piercing wail will startle all the land  
And quickly rouse to arms each warrior band,  
And hills and dales will echo round  
The startling war-whoop's yelling sound.

Sleep on!—Concealed in midnight shade,  
The lover of that fair young maid,  
All fiery with the fell intent  
On which his soul was firmly bent,  
Drew forth from 'neath the shell-decked veil  
That shields his bosom from the gale—  
Where hidden now its empty sheath—  
The poisoned instrument of death,  
And as with stern uplifted eye  
He reared its point toward the sky,—  
Whose shadows feed the soul's unrest—  
Bade all his idol-Gods attest  
And on Heaven's azure-tinted brow  
Record his soul-avenging vow—  
That ere the dawn shall tint the sky,  
Its blade shall blush with crimson pride,  
And wakeless in his slumber lie  
The Chief of Bilox' haughty Tribe.

## IV.

'Tis morn,—a fair and beauteous morn !  
    All cloudless now the azure scene  
Where gathering shadows late had been,  
    But slept the spirit of the storm.  
'Tis morn ! that bright and cheerful hour  
    When Heaven puts forth a ruddy glare  
And blushing wakes the dew-gemm'd flow'r  
    To scatter fragrance on the air,—  
The time when sounds of air and earth  
    Within the anxious heart give birth  
To quiet dreams of hope and joy,  
    And visions of life's unalloy. ;  
When pleasure with her golden crown  
    Sits high on her imperial throne,  
And proudly waves her sceptre hand ;  
    To shower blessings o'er the land.

But oh, there is many a heart  
    That feels not now the blissful hope  
Which those sweet visions can impart,  
    And sighs to know its spirit broke !  
Oh ! there's many an eye once bright  
    Now shines with a decaying light,  
And shaded brows that never knew  
    As now, the depth of sorrow's hue.  
The stream of their existence grows  
    Yet darker as the current flows,

And on its surface swift are borne  
The wreck of joys forever gone.

Deep—deep within their bosoms' swell  
The thoughts no earthly power can quell,  
And on the track of guilt they fly  
To wreak full vengeance or to die.  
Where now is he who wakes the grief  
That seeks in streams of blood relief ?  
Who madly in his vengeance swore  
The Chieftain should awake no more,  
And to his couch in secret went,  
Nor proved in vain his dark intent ?

No beaten trail he now pursues  
As through the forest realm he goes,  
No 'customed track he seeks to find  
As anxious oft he looks behind  
In hope to lure the fearful wrath  
Of vengeance on his hidden path.  
And does he tread those wilds alone ?  
Have all his hopes so sterile grown,  
That not a glimpse of pleasure's gleam  
Lights up the dread and lonely scene ?

A fair and fragile form is by—  
There stirs within no anguish'd sigh,  
For blest, with all his wishes blest,  
Joy rears its throne within his breast.

And she is lovely as the morn  
When first awakes the flush of dawn,  
And o'er the earth is mildly thrown  
Soft radiance from Aurora's throne.  
In vain the limner's art might trace  
The sweetness of that fair young face—  
In vain his skilful hand essay  
Its many beauties to portray ;  
Such pleasing charms—such potent spell  
Within those clustering graces dwell,  
It seems as if to earth was given  
A spirit robed in hues of Heaven.  
Who is the venturous maid, so sweetly fair—  
As beauteous as Heaven's angels are—  
That clings so fondly to her loved one's side  
As hurriedly he threads his doubtful way ?  
Say, can it be the fallen Chieftain's bride ?  
Will peace within her trusting bosom stay ?  
Will sweetest flowers along her path be strown  
And angel happiness guard her as its own ?

## V.

The sun is waning in decline,  
Its last, faint rays but dimly shine  
Upon the tall tree-tops, and now  
Yet linger on the mountain's brow.  
Deep in that dark and lonely wood  
Where nature's throned in solitude,

There rose erect in towering pride,  
And closely standing side by side,  
Two pines of equal height and size,  
Far reaching to the nether skies,  
And at their base two forms recline—  
Oh fair each spirit's earthly shrine—  
By hunger, thirst and toil o'ercome,  
Their race, alas, untimely run !  
For where the Indian lovers slept,  
Around them, thickly, slyly crept  
The deadliest reptiles that have birth  
Within those secret haunts of earth ;  
With sparkling eyes, now hissing round,  
They coil them for the fatal bound—  
And now—is thrust the threatened fang  
That wakes them with its deadly pang.

Hark ! 'pon their fast pursuing path  
Rings loud the echoed yell of wrath ;—  
Nearer and nearer still they come—  
At last, the vengeance-goal is won.  
A mellow music 'mong the trees  
As swaying to the zephhydr's breeze,  
Commingling with the last sad sigh  
Of those young lovers ere they die,  
Fell 'pon each dread pursuer's ear  
And filled him with a nameless fear—  
A thrill—a strange, mysterious dread—  
They turned—and left unharmed—the dead.

As oft is heard at evening's quiet hour,  
When nature charms with weird, mysterious power,  
The soft, low, wailing sounds that often come,  
From pine-trees breathing gentle zephyr's moan,  
The dusky sons of Bilox' haughty Tribe,  
Tell of the Chieftain's fair and faithless Bride,  
And of the youthful lovers shuddering tell  
The righteous fate their wanton hopes befel,  
And name the moaning sound that wantons by—  
THE DYING INDIAN LOVERS' SIGH.

## MARY.

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### I.

THERE'S brightness on thy brow, Mary,  
And thine the sunny glow of youth,  
And dreams of happiness are now  
To thee, the spirit-spell of truth.  
Thy heart is free from every cloud  
That comes from cavern-depths of care,  
And free from sorrow's early shroud  
The spirit-dove that nestles there.

### II.

There's hope in thy young heart, Mary,  
And pleasure sparkles in thy smile,  
And thine the soul-entrancing art  
Another's sorrow can beguile.

Bright visions of the future now  
In fancy's mirror you behold,  
And joy and hope illume thy brow  
Like gems empearled in beauty's mould.

## III.

There's brightness in thy glance, Mary,—  
The Day-God sheds no fonder beam  
Than those bright orbs which can entrance  
The heart by their resplendent sheen.  
And oh, the sweetness of thy smile  
Gives glow of radiance to thy cheek,  
In whose bright beams can bask the while  
Love's fairy, and its vigils keep.

## IV.

There's music in thy voice, Mary,  
In every tone a heavenly thrill,  
And proudly does the soul rejoice  
In treasuring each soft cadence still.  
Thy song is yet upon the air,  
And unseen spirits worship 'round,  
And to the heart's deep chambers bear  
The rapture of its thrilling sound.

## V.

All earth to thee is bright, Mary,  
With every soft enchanting hue,  
And flowers greet thy raptured sight,  
Without one bitter thorn in view.  
And oh, were mine the fairy spell  
To circle round thy coming days,  
In thy pure heart should ever dwell  
The brightness of life's morning rays.

## VI.

But clouds come o'er the sky, Mary,  
And darkly robe the beam of day,  
And hearts are often made to sigh  
Ere youth has spent its earliest ray.  
The shafts of canker-care are worn  
Deep—deep within the bosom's cell,  
And sorrow plants its bitter thorn  
Where joy had wreathed its garland-spell.

## VII.

And he, who strikes the lyre, Mary,  
Who sweeps e'en now its trembling strings,

Has felt the glow of passion-fire  
 That to the heart ambition brings :—  
 And ere the ocean of his youth  
 Had laved proud manhood's distant shore,  
 What life had known of joy and truth  
 Was mingled with affliction's store.

## VIII.

A glorious *gift* is thine, Mary,  
*Mind's* signet on thy forehead beams,  
 And round thy spirit's earthly shrine  
 A glow of sun-like radiance streams.  
 But o'er thy brow will come a shade,  
 And Passion there will set its seal,  
 And flowers in thy path will fade  
 When life its darker hues reveal.

## IX.

I would thou could'st not share, Mary,  
 The canker-spell of care and pain,  
 Or in thy gentle bosom bear  
 The sadness of hope's dying strain.  
 But seldom cloudless is the sky  
 O'er which the rays of genius shine—  
 And surely flashes from thine eye  
 The radiance of that light divine.

## X.

A friend's fond wish is thine, Mary,—

    Oh, may life's each revolving year,  
Renew youth's cherished primrose time,—

    Thy heart unsullied by a tear:  
And may thy light of joy e'er shame  
    The lustre of youth's sunny beam,  
And thou continue e'er to reign  
    The Empress of Hope's radiant scene.

## SONNETS.

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### SUSAN.

#### I.

A WORLD of thought, of dreamy thought lies stored  
Within the depths of those bright, sparkling orbs  
That beam upon the soul with wondrous power,  
And captive bind the unreluctant heart.  
In gazing on thy features fair, a hoard  
Of fancies throng the brain—the soul absorbs  
Each pleasing dream, and consecrates the hour  
That formed of friendship pure, and thee a part.  
A gem-like sheen upon thy brow appears,  
Which is the reflex of immortal mind—  
A glow that will not fade in after years,  
When beauty, pleasure, youth are left behind,  
But be through time and change, a light to bless  
Thee with its constant beam of happiness.

## FANNIE.

## II.

Upon thy fair and placid brow I love  
To look. There beauty sits enthroned, and waves  
The idol-sceptre that the heart can move  
To mild obedience, when it madly braves  
The power of love. The gift of high command  
O'er thoughts all cold and passionless is thine,  
And thine to hold o'er hearts the mystic wand  
That homage draws to beauty's gem-wrought shrine.  
And thou art good as fair ! Within thy breast  
There lies of instincts pure, a treasured mine,  
And each loved trait that virtue knows, a guest  
Thy heart doth own, and all its worth is thine.  
What joy to thee ! what brilliant hope it brings !  
What happy thoughts and blest imaginings !

## J A N E.

## III.

The witchery of gentleness and truth  
Doth spell-like hold thee in its pleasant thrall,  
And blooming with the hues of primrose youth,  
Joy crowns thee with its radiant coronal.  
Retiring as the day-light's fading beam,  
And modest as the blushing tints of dawn—  
Thou seem'st the angel of a lover's dream—  
Or rosy Goddess of the vernal morn.  
Within thy heart is innocence enshrined,  
And on thy brow hope's impress bright appears ;  
Thy face is radiant with the glow of mind  
That casts a pleasure-beam o'er coming years.  
The sweetest flowers along thy path are strown  
And angel-happiness guards thee as its own.

## MIDNIGHT MUSINGS.

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### I.

At this lone hour, when all is still  
Save oft the wanton breeze's moan,  
The thoughts that then my bosom thrill,  
When left, sad, weary and alone,  
Cast gloomy shadows on my mind,  
And life a fearful vision seems,  
So fraught with hopes that ne'er may find  
Existence save in fitful gleams.

### II.

And often at this cheerless hour—  
This hour of quietude and gloom,  
I yield my heart unto that power  
Which breathes of sadness and the tomb.



The dreams of other years come back  
And cluster wildly on the heart,  
And Feeling, tortured on the rack  
Of Memory, seeks its shrine apart.

## III.

How frail indeed are human hopes—  
All fair in Boyhood's primrose time ;  
But soon as when the flow'ret opes  
Their beauties wither and decline.  
And yet, 'tis well our early years  
Are full of Hope's indulgent smiles,  
Since after-time is fraught with tears,  
And seldom joy the heart beguiles.

## IV.

Those youthful hopes, man's early dreams,  
They fondly cling to memory's chain,  
And to the heart their sunny beams  
Oft give delight,—alas!—how vain,—  
We ask again for joyous youth,  
The bounding pulse, the cheerful tread,  
The heart's first innocence and truth,  
Which now like summer dreams have fled.

## V.

In vain the call—the vision's past—  
From youth's gay scenes we're torn apart,  
And lone remembrance shrines at last  
    In silent hope the joyless heart.  
Those early dreams have fled away,  
And now the storm of bitter ills  
That make man's life a wintry day,  
    Alone our sad existence fills.

## VI.

Such are the thoughts that wildly come  
    In midnight's silence o'er the mind,  
And mar the blissful hopes that bloom  
    In visions with our being twined.  
And I have felt the sadd'ning change  
    Which grief has wrought upon the heart,  
And hopes, and fears, and tumults strange,—  
    Unwelcome guests that ne'er may part.

## VII.

Not thus howe'er at noon of night  
    These hated visions crowded e'er,—

'Twas oft in dreams of fond delight  
I learned its muteness to revere.  
Then buried in my books and 'lone,  
A daring thought possessed my brain,  
I would not live and die unknown  
Or wear an undistinguished name.

## VIII.

'Twas then Ambition seized my mind  
And lit up fiery dreams of fame,  
And oft I thought that I could find  
The goal whence burned the flickering flame.  
The anxious hope, the fevered brain,  
Did startle Thought's electric fire,  
'Till tortured nerves and growing pain  
Forbid me longer to aspire.

## IX.

And now the frenzied hope is dead,  
That made the bubble fame its goal,  
And thoughts and feelings all are fled,  
That Passion flooded on the soul.  
The time of youth, the boyhood time,  
When dreams flash brightness on life's path,—  
Ambition's visions, all, in fine,  
Are rent as by the lightning's wrath.

## X.

All—all are gone, and I am not  
The dreaming boy of other years,  
Those fruitless fancies are forgot,  
And what were smiles are changed to tears.  
Upon my heart the vulture feeds,—  
And hence, all daring hope of fame,  
And thoughts that aimed at lofty deeds  
Have wandered back to whence they came.

## XI.

Thus, let them rest,—my brow is mild,  
And now my pulse beats gently on,  
And passions that were deep and wild  
Have fluttered on the heart and gone.  
Yet am I changed. And oft as moans  
Each murmuring breeze that wantons by,  
I've felt its cadence in life's tones  
And thought 'twere luxury to die.



## S T A N Z A S.

---

### I.

You ask me fair Lady, why slumbers  
    My harp-string neglected so long,  
And bid me awaken its numbers  
    To echos of gladness and song.  
Oh, you know not what sorrows oppress  
    The heart that is nurtured in woe,  
For the spell of Youth's vision can bless  
    The harp of the Minstrel no more.

### II.

My bark was thrown out on life's ocean  
    In the brightness of youth's early morn,  
When hope and the heart's fond emotion  
    Were free from the touch of the thorn.

In the sky of my fate there appeared  
A star that shone bright and serene,  
And with pleasure's wild fancies I reared  
The fabric of life's golden dream.

## III.

O'er the waves a dark tempest appearing—  
There burst from the storm-cloud a flame,  
That reft the proud vessel careering  
Of all but a fragment and name.  
And the star o'er my fate that was cast,  
To lead me to fortune and fame,  
Grew dim, until extinguished at last  
In the depth of my folly and shame.

## IV.

The Roman in sadness once musing  
On the ruins that grew dark on his sight,  
Felt a glow of deep sorrow suffusing  
The heart that had nurtured delight.  
Thus aroused to reflection he stood  
A statue of grief and despair,  
And moved at the wreck of time's flood,  
He paid the sad tribute—a tear.

## V.

How dark are the hopes and despairing  
That cluster around my sad heart—  
The spells of deep sorrow are tearing  
Youth's pleasure and being apart.  
The sweet visions that fancy would call  
From the depths of the spirit land,  
The hopes of my manhood appal,  
Like a spectral and shadowy band.

## VI.

Then ask not, fair Lady, why slumbers  
My harp-string neglected so long,  
Nor bid me awaken its numbers  
To echoes of gladness and song.  
Alas ! you know not what sorrows oppress  
The heart that is nurtured in woe,  
For the spell of youth's vision can bless  
The Harp of the Minstrel no more.

# UNBIND THIS WREATH.

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## I.

UNBIND this wreath upon my brow  
Whence hope and joy have fled,  
This garland ill beseems me now—  
My thoughts are with the dead.  
They linger o'er the grave where sleeps  
The loved of other days,  
And oh, the heart in sadness weeps  
For hope's departed rays.

## II.

Take back—take back the worthless prize  
That lured my parent's will,  
I cannot wed in joy's disguise  
When griefs my bosom fill.

This gaudy wreath would fairer bloom  
On hope's young, spotless brow—  
On mine alas, there is a gloom  
That dims its cheerful glow.

## III.

Unbind this wreath ! I will not wear  
The joy I do not feel—  
These bridal robes bedeck despair  
Whose wounds they cannot heal.  
Oh, what is gold, that life should give  
Its memory of years,  
And force the broken heart to live  
In wretchedness and tears.

# LOVE UNCHANGING.

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## I.

THY eye still brightly beams, Love,  
With light that erst was thine,  
In which affection seems  
To keep its sainted shrine.  
Thy gaze so sweet, with joy complete,  
Thy cheerful smile that knows no wile,  
Are links that bind me fast  
To memories of the past.

## II.

No change is in thy heart, Love,  
Thou art in all the same,  
As when thy winning art  
Did first my homage claim.

And though we've seen youth's faded dream,  
And lived through years of toil and tears,  
No fortune e'er beguiles  
From love its trusting smiles.

## III.

How oft in mem'ry's glass, Love,  
I pierce the misty veil  
That time throws o'er the past  
To dim Love's youthful tale.  
Oh then I feel thy image steal  
In light of youth, of love and truth  
Across my soul that shares  
The burden of thy cares.

## IV.

And you through life will be, Love,  
A faithful spirit still,  
And I the same to thee,  
Through scenes of joy and ill.  
Thy bloom will fade, and time will shade  
Thy beauty's page with dents of age,  
But in my heart will be  
Unchanging love for thee.

# OH! I REMEMBER!

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## I.

Oh, I remember well the hour  
When first I owned thy beauty's power,  
And felt to earth a charm was given  
To guile me with its mimic Heaven.  
Enchained I sat beside thee then  
While feelings strange grew up within,  
My heart's fond happiness to prove—  
But oh! I did not dream 'twas love!

## II.

I left thee only for a day,  
But thought did yield to fancy's sway,  
And still I bask'd the ling'ring while  
Within the light of beauty's smile.

I heard thy gentle accents o'er,  
Thy eyes, bright beaming as before,  
And felt my heart's deep fountains move,  
But oh ! I did not dream 'twas love !

## III.

And now, I look into my heart,  
Thy image fills up every part ;  
I scan the mirror of my soul,  
And there thy shadow has control ;  
And thought ne'er borne on wings afar,  
Makes thee its bourne and idol-star ;—  
Let these thy trophies amply prove,  
How close each feeling links with love.

## THE MINIATURE.

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### I.

I GAZE entranced ! and as my wondering eyes  
    Drink in the beauty of thy witching smile,  
The hopes and haunted thoughts of years arise  
    That line the shore of memory's dream-girt isle,  
And Moslem-like, I feel at length 'tis given,  
    To view the Houri of my visioned Heaven.

### II.

I gaze, and fain would bow and worship thee,  
    For ne'er did to the Grecian minstrel seem  
A Goddess worthier of the homaged knee,  
    Nor e'er did Nymph that haunted Poet's dream,  
Awaken half the deep idolatry  
    My heart has gathered to its shrine for thee.

## III.

Thou seem'st too lovely far for mortal birth—  
An angel-visitant of this lowly sphere,—  
Thy charms are of the primrose morn of earth  
When every flower did its God revere—  
When Naiads laughed beside the silver stream  
And fairies revelled in the orient beam.

## IV.

Sweet shape ! Thy beauty has enchain'd my thought,  
And fixed its anchored dreams on thee alone,  
And oh, the shrine my pilgrim-fancy sought  
Is in the marvel of thy graces won.  
Thou art the cynosure of every dream  
That gave to earth its brightest, happiest beam.

## V.

The Elfin-genius of the smile doth beam  
In kindling beauty on thy blooming lip,  
Where nectar, rich as Hermion dews, I ween  
Would tempt the Grecian Deities to sip.  
Oh oft, my kisses warm I've showered there  
And fain would breathe my life on lips so fair.

## VI.

Sweet image, say ! Art thou of Earth or Air ?  
Art thou a being of the realms of life,  
Or has the Artist's fancy placed thee there,  
The sun of dreams with which his soul was rife,  
To type some Naiad of the moonlit wave,  
Or Peri of the ocean's coral cave ?

## VII.

Thou art so fair in feature and in form,  
It seems, some Angel quitting Heaven's sphere,  
Dissolved in light, whose radiant beam of morn  
Quick flew to earth and left its image here.  
Whate'er thy source, I know and feel thou art  
The loved Egeria of my dreaming heart.

## VIII.

I gaze, and lingering gaze as on the star  
That brightest shines in Love's Ausonian sky,  
Whose beams fall softly from their home afar  
And on the soul in mirrored beauty lie,  
Awaking in the heart a music-tone,  
Like Harp of Memnon answering to the sun.

## IX.

For veiled within the heart there is a lyre  
That sweetly echoes to affection's breath,  
And every feeling wakes a kindred wire  
That twines about the soul its music-wreath ;—  
And now, I feel some fond emotion move  
The chord that trembles to the sigh of love.

## X.

Yes, image fair ! I own thou hast a spell  
Zanoni-like, around my being thrown,  
And hopes and feelings that no power can quell  
Have with each look at thee more earthly grown,  
Until encompassed by Love's mystic chain,  
I struggle with its faultless links in vain.

## XI.

Thou art indeed, the idol of my soul,  
The earth-born Goddess at whose shrine I bow,  
And e'er I'll turn me from earth's low control  
To Eden visions such as haunt me now,  
And seek in pride of fame and power to be  
More pure in heart and less unworthy thee.

## XII.

What though be filled the storehouse of the mind  
With lessons taught in tomes of ancient lore,  
Or quaffed Pierian fount where song is shrined  
And Poesy sweeps still its harp of yore,  
If o'er Ambition's way thy light doth throw  
No beam to hallow life with kindred glow ?

## XIII.

Oh, Life would be a bleak and barren waste  
Where flowers shed no fragrance o'er the scene,  
And death—misnamed of Terrors—be embraced  
In welcome sweetness as a pleasant dream,  
If in my future was no sphere for thee  
In which to shape and rule my destiny.

## XIV.

Another gaze ! and now the trembling string  
Of my weak lyre must cease its wand'ring strain—  
And yet, 'tis not the breath of fancy's wing  
That 'wakens notes that may, alas, be vain,  
For on the spirit-altar, tones divine  
Make music 'round the heart's enchanting shrine.

## xv.

I love thee, WIFE ! Life's holiest thought is thine !  
For thee I'd dare the steep ascent of fame,  
And with the trophied laurels proudly twine  
In fadeless wreaths the letters of thy name—  
Now glassed upon the mirror of my soul,  
To keep me free from sin and earth's control.

## LA BAGATELLE.

WRITTEN IN CHURCH.

### I.

A HUNDRED eyes, a hundred eyes, Ned,  
All beaming gently bright,  
Are tempting prize, are tempting prize, Ned,  
To win an anchorite.  
There's black and blue, there's black and blue, Ned,  
A careless thing to you,  
And yet to you I own 'tis true, Ned,  
I once preferred the blue.

### II.

'Twas at a time, a charming time, Ned—  
In confidence 'tis told—

In folly's prime, in folly's prime, Ned,  
When I was young and bold.  
I dared to love, I dared to love, Ned,  
This charming eye of blue,  
And hard I strove, and hard I strove, Ned,  
To win the charmer too.

## III.

My harp was strung, with garlands hung, Ned,  
And fancy touched the strings,  
While passion sung, the flowers among, Ned,  
Its wild imaginings.  
I saw a tear, a trembling tear, Ned,  
O'erflow its crystal cell,  
And Hope did cheer with flattering cheer, Ned,  
Much more than tongue can tell.

## IV.

I touched again with tender strain, Ned,  
The string made doubly dear—  
'Twas all in vain—it broke in twain, Ned,  
Alas, the faithless tear.  
And now I'm free, as ever free, Ned,  
To sport with Beauty's chain,  
Too soon to be, perhaps with thee, Ned,  
Far worse entwined again.

V. \*

So many eyes, of various dyes, Ned,  
All beaming gently bright,  
Are tempting prize to win the sighs, Ned,  
Of e'en an anchorite.  
Then how can we, oh how can we, Ned,  
Who love a glance so well,  
Hope long to be, all fancy free, Ned,  
Untouched by beauty's spell.

## THE GIRL ON COLLINS STREET.

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### I.

IN storied verse and olden song  
We're told of maidens fair,  
Whose glance could e'er disarm the strong  
Or strengthen wan despair.  
Such beauty's charm is lingering yet,  
And yet the homage meet;  
A peerless one I oft have met—  
The girl on Collins Street.

### II.

I've heard the sweet Parnassian lyre  
In beauty's praise awake,  
And quivering with poetic fire,  
The marble heart would break.

But never strain that Genius sung  
In Delian numbers sweet,  
Did more to maiden fair belong  
Than her on Collins Street.

## III.

I've seen the lovely Southern maid  
Full blest with beauty's charms,  
And Northern girls in smiles arrayed  
Whom truth and virtue warms ;  
The Eastern fair with polished mind  
And Western ones I meet,  
But ne'er the counterpart could find  
Of her on Collins Street.

## IV.

The lovely form of Grecian mould,  
And face enwreathed with smiles,  
The tress of raven and of gold  
And eye that love beguiles,  
Have often stirred the heart's deep strain  
Of music wildly sweet,  
But none could prompt its best refrain  
Like her on Collins Street.

## V.

I've sat and worshipped at her side,  
    In summer's quiet even,  
When Hope has whispered of a bride,  
    To make of earth a Heaven.  
I've gazed upon her features fair  
    And beauty all complete,  
And thought that none could e'er compare  
    With her on Collins Street.

## VI.

I lingered on each gentle tone  
    From her sweet lips that fell,  
And marked how bright her clear eyes shone  
    That pierced my bosom's cell.  
The pinioned hours flew swiftly by,  
    And fast my pulses beat—  
I could not speak—but oft did sigh  
    For her on Collins Street.

## VII.

The fondest dreams e'er fancy knew  
    Within my heart found birth,  
And hope was tinged with radiant hue,  
    As vernal blooms of earth.

The sky of life seemed bright and fair  
As mingling rays that meet,  
And then to woo, I've thought I'd dare  
The girl on Collins Street.

## VIII.

With this resolve one eve I went,  
The moon shone clear above,  
And all the starry firmament  
Seemed poetry and love.  
I quaffed the soul-inspiring scene,  
And felt its influence sweet,  
While dreaming of my heart's dear queen,  
The girl on Collins Street.

## XI.

With hope elate and heart of love  
I touched the sounding wire,  
Its thrilling music did but move  
My love's impassioned fire.  
The door flew wide, but what, alas !  
My anxious eyes did greet !  
*Nine hats*—like spectres in the pass—  
Of *beaux* on Collins Street.

## X.

My memory oft recalls that hour  
And all the thoughts it gave,  
When hope decayed like blasted flower  
And happ'ness found a grave.  
The sudden shock which moved me then  
My startled nerves repeat,  
As oft the memory comes again  
Of beaux on Collins Street.

## XI.

Those hats like ghoul's their vigils keep  
Around my thoughts by day,  
And e'en when locked in dreamy sleep  
Like spectres haunt their prey.  
Sometimes I feel renewed love's spell,  
And should I chance to meet  
Those hats no more, all *may* be well  
With me on Collins Street.

## POEM.

Delivered before the Mercantile Library Association,  
San Francisco, California, 1853.

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No paltry task my humble Muse essays—  
Unused to bask beneath the solar blaze—  
As like some maiden coy, she views the lyre,  
And blushing hopes, yet trembles to aspire.  
When Homer touched the lyre's slumbering chord  
It woke to music and the world adored ;  
When Maro's harp with garden riches twined  
By rural themes entranced the public mind,  
The air all laden with the wealth of praise  
Resigned its freight in homage to his lays.  
When Tasso touched with true promethean fire  
Sent forth the echos of a magic lyre,  
The nations owned the beatific strain  
And Heaven gladdened at the Poet's reign.

When Milton rapt with dreams of richest light  
Looked up to Heaven and soared in daring flight,  
The holiest honors of the tuneful Nine  
Were wreathed to decorate his Muse's shrine.  
Not such the dream an humble bard inspires  
Whose trembling Muse to lesser heights aspires ;  
Who ne'er has known to build the palaced rhyme  
Nor breathed the odors of the Minstrel's clime.  
Well may she pause and seek to shun the flight  
That palsies now her pinions with affright,—  
But lured by smiles, and by your favor won,  
She braves the task, with flattering trust begun.

## I.

As slowly sinks th' expiring God of Day—  
Its track sublime throughout its lengthened way—  
The occidental wave invites to rest  
The shining Monarch on its limpid breast,  
And ere his burning car to view is lost  
His latest beam lights up our golden coast.  
This land, which, like some tale of fairy seems  
The fancied fable of the Poet's dreams,  
Like Pallas armed, proclaimed its magic birth—  
The monarch-splendor of the startled earth.  
To it as to the Mecca's sainted shrine  
The pilgrim-world began its march sublime,—  
The calm, the rash, the wise and zealot, all  
Renouncing home, its ties and kindred thrall.

Not all the wealth of legendary lore  
From which the Minstrel heaps his hoarded store,  
Nor fancies thronging on the Poet's brain  
In fond accord, or wild, disordered train,  
Such marvel to the gazing world conveyed—  
Such seeming false in holiest truth arrayed.  
The Bard whose lyre by Fable's Goddess strung  
Th' enchanting strains of weird Tradition sung,  
Ne'er dreamed 'mid fictions of the fertile mind,  
The Real, which this golden land enshrined.  
Where freedom dwells or haughty despots reign,  
And vile oppression boasts a hallowed name,  
The same ambitious dreams the heart inspired  
And Fancy fashioned what the Hope desired.  
Thus 'roused, and starting from lethargic sleep,  
Their straining eyes looked o'er the mighty deep,  
And to their anxious visions came the sight  
Of Goddess throwing off the robes of night,  
And then her glittering garments they behold  
As waves a queenly sceptre o'er the land of gold.  
To Fancy's eye the glistening shore did seem,  
More bright by far than Grecian minstrel's dream,  
And as they viewed, imagination warm  
New beauties gave, enriched with every charm,  
'Till lost in wonder, in amazement lost,  
Each thought was haunted by the distant Coast.

## II.

It seemed a land that basked beneath the sun  
Whose genial smiles upon it ever shone,  
Where fruits and flowers in its green parterres  
Would homage yield from Nature's worshippers,  
And Nature's self by rosy wreaths in thrall  
Would vie in mirth with joyous Bacchanal.

A land whose streams are rich with precious ores,  
And tempting Naiads more than Grecian shores,  
Whose mountains bathing in eternal snows  
O'erlook the vales that sleep in sweet repose,  
Where summer smiling, with its gorgeous train  
Sheds o'er the scene the glories of its reign.

A land with hills the Arcadian fancy saw  
With Oreads filled—unknown to Nature's law—  
And fountains graced by water-nymphs that lave  
Their beauties in the fresh, translucent wave.

A land whose mountains, hills and vales and plains,  
Whose streams, and fountains breathing music's strains,  
Are rich with treasures to the eye unseen  
And give to truth the semblance of a dream.

The while they sought, the hopeful fancy grew,  
And splendors brightened on the pilgrim's view ;  
The stony mountain in its height serene,  
And valley blooming in eternal green,

All, turning like the fabled dream of old  
By Midas' touch to heaps of massive gold.

## III.

Lo ! Now the mighty throng of pilgrims stand  
Exulting on the Western Ocean's strand,  
The peril past—the mountain and the deep—  
Kind fortune smiles and cares forget to weep.  
Upon the drowsy world begins to break  
The dawn of truth to bid its legions wake  
From slumbers by despotic poppies shed,  
And own the memories of their horrors fled.  
The tinsel drapery of thrones conceals  
But ill what human misery reveals,  
And man by power forced to kiss the rod  
Will smite the smiter 'neath the smile of God.  
The law of might will yield to lordly right,  
The sword by Justice sheathed will shun the fight,  
And Earth's proud Monarchs like their Serfs will be,  
A people Sovereign, happy, proud and free.  
Wise Heaven marks the spot for freedom's home  
Where towering minaret and lofty dome  
Shall seek in pride to reach the vaulted skies  
And be a solace for Oppression's sighs.  
Of every nation, age, complexion, race,  
Th' anomoly of human kind we trace ;  
Religions, creeds and fantasies repose  
In mild, indulgent humor to their foes,  
And all in seeming harmony unite  
To wrestle in ambition's zealous fight.

Here rests the Briton's rage 'gainst Gallic foes  
And sleeps the Frenchman's fury in repose ;  
Here Austrian pride forgetful of its hate  
Bohemia's sons discerns in equal state,  
And exiles driven from Hungarian shore  
Their wrongs retain but feel their fears no more.  
The titled Noble, with ancestral pride,  
Scorns not the low-born subject at his side ;  
The wise, the princely, and the worldly great  
No honors claim o'er humbler man's estate ;  
By rank, distinction, wealth, degree,  
No form is hallowed and the mind is free ;  
Sole patent of man's noble birth we claim,  
Not royal favors, but an honest name.  
All here alike, the humble and the proud,  
Unheeding join ambition's eager crowd,  
And each doth vie with each to win the prize,  
The soil auriferous in its wealth supplys.  
Europe her multifarious offspring sends,  
And Asia with its dusky hordes attends,  
And e'en the Aztec with remembrance strong,  
Though unforgiving, swells the motley throng.

## IV.

But most the victors of this chosen land  
The muse exalts—and audience does demand—  
Who 'roused by country's wrongs to seize the sword  
Did hurl just vengeance on the Aztec horde,

And from the haughty Mexic' tore the crest  
And plucked this gem from off her bleeding breast,  
Went forth the champions of the deathless right,  
Like heroes proud to woo the willing fight,  
As fiercely shrieked the eagle's piercing cry,  
Which told the Condor's hateful brood were nigh.  
The brave battalia formed in stern array,  
And beating hearts were eager for the fray ;  
And now at sound of drum and thrilling fife  
The warriors march, impatient for the strife.  
They went as did of yore their nobler sires,  
Who burned with freedom's sublimated fires,  
While in their glowing cheeks and glistening eyes  
Forth flashed the dauntless spirit of emprise,  
And as the eagle ensign o'er them streams  
They pant to blazon it with honor's beams.  
That banner bears the imprint of their fame,  
And from its starry folds each deathless name  
Will ever in immortal glory stream,  
And mock the splendors of the fading dream.  
The grateful tongues of millions yet unborn  
Shall keep their deeds as fresh as dewy morn,  
And while the sun shall on earth's fragments glo  
Their fame will link with name of Mexico.

When war's alarms no longer woke the day,  
And Peace resumed her mild, benignant sway,

And from the foe this ocean-gem was torn  
In just requital of her causeless scorn,  
The bold, brave hearts that then in triumph shone  
Now seek the land their priceless valor won.  
Towards the setting sun their faces turned,  
And strong emotions in each bosom burned  
As sped the bark beneath the bending sail,  
Or braved the pilgrim's heart the mountain gale.  
How sad the memories on the bosom throng  
And fill with tears the Muse's mournful song.  
The quiet home, the cherished social hearth,  
The scenes which gave indulgent childhood mirth ;  
The stream that crept beneath the flowering vine  
Where youth did sport in boyhood's sunny time,  
The garden swelling with its wealth of flowers  
Its odorous incense on the morning hours,  
And all the scenes by hallowing fondness blest,  
In vain, could still the haunted soul's unrest.  
The holy trysting place where lovers met  
To hide their fondness and their fears forget,  
To breathe the vows by lovers only spoken  
And guard the trust by faithful hearts unbroken ;  
And e'en the idol of the dreaming heart,  
The fond Egeria, of the soul a part,  
Who when the stars alone their vigils kept,  
At passion's holy breathing's fondly wept,  
Were reft of power, their witching spells disowned,  
And mad ambition in their stead enthroned.  
One look, one fond and lingering look was all  
The heart betrayed, then broke the silken thrall,

And onward then, and still the speedy flight  
To new-born realms now glittering on the sight.  
O'er mighty plains the pilgrim bends his way,  
Nor can untrodden wilds his soul dismay ;  
To him the arid rock or fertile ground  
Alike, alike the awful waste around ;  
He sees one only star, one guiding light,  
And onward hastens through danger's thickening night.  
Oh, who can tell the secrets of that soul  
As throbbing under passion's wild control,  
He hurry's from the hopes of earlier years,  
Nor bathes remembrance in repenting tears !  
What eye can read the depths of that stern heart,  
From early memories rudely torn apart,  
As 'mid the silence of untroubled night  
Thought woos the happy realms of earlier light !  
What hopes, what varied dreams are now inspired,  
Before unknown, nor to the heart desired !  
How eft o'er all the withering simoom came,  
And hopes, and visions fraught with golden fame,  
Like summer dreams the orange groves beneath,  
Were swept as autumn leaves before its breath.  
Where yon Sierras lift their frowning forms,  
Around whose summits play eternal storms,  
Many a wearied pilgrim paused to rest,  
And sunk supinely on the mountain's crest.  
Though full in view the tempting goal appears,  
To crown their hopes and dissipate their fears,  
Like him, who once on Pisgah's summit stood,  
They saw, but ne'er could reach, the promised good.

Now wintry blasts sweep o'er each manly head,  
And sing the only requiem for the dead.

## VI.

But on, my trembling Muse, nor still prolong,  
The saddened echos of unhappy song.  
A lofty theme thy feeble praises claim,  
And tasks the faltering tribute of thy strain.  
Where'er the eye its truant gaze compels,  
A world of magic in the circle dwells,  
And in its charmed sphere we still advance,  
And breathe the odorous breezes of romance.  
Of late, along this occidental shore,  
The red-browed Monarch, skill'd in savage lore,  
Rejoiced on crimson fields to vaunt his pride,  
And covet fame on battle's swelling tide.  
Was his, the mighty mountain, and the plain,  
And his, the prospect of the boundless main,  
And streams that rolled their silver tides along,  
And hills that echoed to his native song.  
The flame of Thought that o'er the Nation's spread,  
To startle Monarchs with untimely dread,  
Make kingdom's crumble at their fickle base,  
And Empires pause to gaze on Freedom's face—  
This darkened spot illumed with wondrous light,  
And Wisdom's radiance shed o'er Error's Night.  
His native haunts no more the savage treads  
With bounding pulse, and heart no danger dreads,

But exiled from the peace of other days,  
His home no longer beams with tranquil blaze.  
The bending sky looks darkly on his fate,  
And all his hopes of earth are desolate—  
Alas ! the feeble wand’rer well may crave  
The only boon that’s left him now—a grave !  
The drowsy Aztec and his Indian foe,  
Like ocean-waves receding in their flow,  
Are wasting fast upon their native soil,  
Where freedom wakens ’neath the sun of toil.  
The morning light that bathed them in its beams,  
When manhood’s pride was flush’d with happy dreams,  
Sheds brightly now, its wide, expanded glow,  
O’er hills and streams, that swell with music’s flow,  
Where mightier sovereigns wield the conqu’ring rod,  
And own o’er all, the righteous hand of God.  
Here Freedom now its mighty temple rears,  
To light with hope the dawn of coming years,  
And give to earth the more than magic beam,  
That wisdom hallows with awakened dream.

A star has risen in the western sky,  
Whose light doth seem like Heaven’s beauteous eye,  
And o’er the earth its quivering beams are thrown,  
Like radiance from Aurora’s dazzling throne.  
No comet’s wildness marks its wondrous birth,  
Or lightning’s gleams that flash and darken earth,  
But brilliant as the noon-tide’s fervent rays,  
It shines with steady and increasing blaze !

Pacific planet hail ! Luxurious coast !  
Of every land the freeman's proudest boast !  
What forms of shining splendor 'round thee throng,  
And swell the accents of melodious song !  
The gentle Peace with cadence fills the air,  
And Graces, in harmonious numbers rare,  
Unite with Muses to enhance the strain,  
While Plenty follows with her jovial train.  
Here Labor with gigantic arm outspread,  
Bids Hunger leave in hope its crumbless shed,  
And Wisdom too puts Indolence to shame,  
And loses it the trophies of its reign.  
Here Learning guides, and reign'd by virtue's laws,  
The noblest homage to its Temple draws,  
And scanning Earth as with an Eagle's gaze,  
Sees Nations basking in its future blaze.  
The fondest dreams the Saxon's hope inspires,  
His heart inflames, and all his being fires.  
He braved the Stony Mountain and the sand,  
And ocean wave, at freedom's blest command,  
And still Ambition, monarch of his breast,  
Obedience owns to freedom's high behest.  
Along his beaten track, o'er drought and sand,  
Where teeming life but waits th' enchanter's wand,  
The iron-steed with lightning hoof will fly  
Like meteor-gleam athwart the desert sky,  
And bear from clime to clime with matchless worth  
The gorgeous treasures of the teeming earth.  
What dreams of wealth, and hope and future fame,  
Encircle now, the Saxon's shining name !

The Orient unlocks its portals wide,  
And Asia floats its treasures on the tide ;  
The wealth of India and the ocean isles,  
Enchants the eye and freights the heart with smiles,  
And scarce the Saxon wish e'er moves the air  
Ere all their opulence repays his care.

Nor yet is ancient Babylon forgot,  
Whose riches crowned that city's happier lot,  
Nor cities vast which Commerce built of yore  
Along the Tiber, and Euphrates' shore.

The wealth of Tyre, and Sidon's equal fame,  
That sprang from Commerce wafting o'er the main,  
The Saxon's heart with kindred wish inspires,  
And fortune grants whatc'er the hope desires.

Already 'round the Freedom-Goddess' throne  
The Queen of Commerce draws her shining zone,  
And now, from every nation, mart and clime,  
Brings riches vaster than Golconda's mine.

The peerless Clipper, monarch of our bays,  
With willing sheets unfurled, its anchor weighs,  
And in its winged flight on ocean's breast  
Becomes of every clime a favored guest.

Where flows the Danube, or the Ganges' tide,  
The Po, or Nile's impetuous waters glide,  
The wealth that glistens on each distant shore,  
In richest streams upon our Commerce pour.

On earth, there's not a tide or stream that flows ;  
No winter's wind, or summer breeze that blows ;

No ray of morning light, or sunshine warm ;  
No flower that falls, or rose's blooming charm ;  
But each doth hoard its treasures' richest store,  
And plant their fulness on our favored shore.



THE END.









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